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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/447,378	11/23/1999	RYUJI NISHIKAWA	005586-20019	3746
26021	7590	08/23/2004	EXAMINER	
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P. 500 S. GRAND AVENUE SUITE 1900 LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-2611			QI, ZHI QIANG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/447,378

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Qi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,10,11,15-17,19,20,24,25 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,10,11,15-17,19,20,24 and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/1/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 1, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,097,466 (Koma).

Claim 25, Koma discloses (col.2, line 56 – col.3, line 3; col.3, line 66 – col.5, line 56; col.7, line 54 – col.9, line 4; Figs.1-2) a liquid crystal display device comprising:

- liquid crystal layer (40) is sealed between the first substrate (10) and the opposed substrate (30);

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- the first substrate (10) has switching elements (TFTs) connected to gate signal lines (12L) and drain signal lines (18L), and the pixel electrodes (26) which are connected to the TFTs through contact hole and made of Al (metal) conductive material (col.5, lines 2-4), and a vertical alignment film (28) for orienting the liquid crystal (col.5, lines 34-38);
- the second substrate (30) has an opposing common electrode (32) which has alignment control window (34) at position overlapping with the pixel electrodes (26) to control the orientation of the liquid crystal and a vertical alignment film (28) for orienting the liquid crystal (col.7, line 54 – co.8, line 46; Fig.2);
- the drain signal lines (18L) are disposed on the first substrate (10) at positions that overlap with the alignment control window (34) (see Fig.1);
- the alignment control window (34) has a width different from the drain signal line (18L) (see the Fig.1 looks the width of the orientation control window is different from the drain line).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-5,10-11,15-17,19-20, 24 and 39 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record neither discloses nor teaches a liquid crystal display device comprising various elements, more specifically, as the following:

light-shielding film is disposed to overlap with boundaries of the orientation direction of the liquid crystal formed by the orientation divider, and the light-shielding film overlapping the orientation divider along the extension direction of the orientation divider as shown in Fig.4 [claims 1,11,15 and 20];

the drain signal lines are disposed to overlap the orientation control window's extension region along the longitudinal direction of the extension region as shown in Fig.4 [claim 24];

a light-shielding film is disposed to overlap the orientation divider along the extension direction of the orientation divider as shown in Fig.4 [claim 39].

The closest references AAPA, US 6,097,466 (Koma) and US 6,157,428 disclose a structure of a liquid crystal using alignment control window to divide the orientation direction in a pixel electrode region so as to enlarge the viewing angle display, but the prior art of record do not disclose the arrangement for the alignment control window in which the drain signal lines functions as a light-shielding film is disposed to overlap the orientation divider along the extension direction of the orientation divider as shown in Fig.4 so as to increase the contrast ratio. The other reference such as US 6,456,352 (Matsuyama et al) discloses that using control electrode as an orientation control electrode surrounds the periphery of the pixel electrode, but the structure is different from the orientation divider of this application. Most close references found have a common assignee or same inventor having different claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on June.1, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are as follows:

1) The reference Koma'466 is common owned with the present application. The rejection of claim 25 under 102(e) is inappropriate.

Examiner's responses to Applicant's arguments are as follows:

1) The reference Koma '466 has a filing date of Nov.17, 1998 that is earlier than the priority date of Nov.27, 1998 of the present application. Therefore, the reference Koma'466 is a 102(e) reference, and the inventor is different from the inventor, Ryuji Nishikawa, of the present application that constitutes a different inventor's entity.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Qi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2299.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 8:00 am-5:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Qi
August 17, 2004


TARIFUR R. CHOWDHURY
PRIMARY EXAMINER